submitted to the Cabinet after views of all concerned are received. The Bill will be implemented after it is enacted into law. No representation has been received from any farmer regarding recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committe on Agriculture.

Sugarcane prices

1962. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over the years the gap between the statutory minimum price fixed by the Central Government and the State advised price of the sugarcane given to sugarcane growers of certain States is widening;

(b) if so, in which way the Central Government propose to compensate the farmers of the rest of the country who are getting a lower price when compared with their counterparts;

(c) whether the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) would be asked to reorient itself and fix remunerative price to the sugarcane growing farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no loss to the sugarcane farmers who are being paid according to the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, therefore, the question of compensation such farmers dues not arise.

(c) to (e) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugar cane fixed by the Central Government is a Remunerative price. Hence, there is no need of asking the CACP to re-orient itself.

Production of pulses

1963. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the post Green Revolution period, the

production of most of the crops has increased but the production of pusles has remained almost stagnant for the past 40 years. *i.e.,* since 1965-66,

(b) whether it is a fact that the area under pusles has remained almost the same and there has been no major breakthrough in this crop and certified seeds are not available in adequate quantity; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to increase the per capital net availability of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Production of total pulses was 9.94 million tonnes in 1965-66 which had increased to 14.52 million tonnes in 2006-07 (2nd advance estimates). During the same period, production of major crops namely wheat increased from 10.40 million tonnes to 72.50 million tonnes, rice from 30.59 million tonnes, 90.13 million tonnes, and coarse cereals from 21.42 million tonnes to 32.02 million tonnes. Rate of increase in the production of pusles has been lower than that in some other crops in the post Green Revolution period.

(b) The area coverage under pusles was 22.72 million hectares in 1965-66, and it estimated at 22.31 million hectares in 2006-07 indicating that the area remained almost that same. As per information from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the present availability of certified seeds is about 6.6 lakh quintals as against the seed requirement of 13.00 lakh quintals.

(c) In order to increase production of pulses, a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation from 01-04-2004. Under the scheme, financial assistance are provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seeds, production and distribution of certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits, infrastructure development, block demonstrations on improved technology, integrated pest management and distribution of sprinkler sets.

To augment domestic availability , the Government has permitted import of pulses at zero duty. Also, a ban was imposed on export of pulses with

effect from June 22, 2006 (except kabuli channa). These measures are envisaged to increase the per capita availability of pulses.

Cattle conservation in Rajasthan

1964. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent people in Rajasthan depend on agriculture and animal husbandry for their livelihood and with the summer season approaching, if so, what steps are being taken by the Central Government alongwith the State Government with regard to cattle conservation;

(b) whether any contingency plan is being formulated in this regard; and

(c) if so, what aspects are being looked at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir. For the conservation of cattle in the country, Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes. The schemes being implemented in Rajasthan for cattle conservation are given at Statement-I and Statement-II.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement-I

Details of the schemes being implemented in Rajasthan for cattle conservation

Sl.No.	Name of the scheme	Purpose of the scheme
1	2	3
A	**Centrally Sponsored Schemes**	
1.	National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding	The project envisages genetic up-gradation of bovine population on priority basis with a focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds.
2.	Assistance to States for Fodder Development	Scheme provides Central assistance to the States to supplement their